

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> MAKEUP NASCAR RACE AT NHIS**

Due to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the NASCAR Winston Cup race originally scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at the New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon is now set to be held on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001. Through the cooperative efforts of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, local officials, the NH State Police, and the New Hampshire International Speedway, a comprehensive traffic control plan will be implemented on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for the 98,000 spectators and 37,700 vehicles expected to attend the NASCAR Winston Cup race at the Loudon race track.

"Although the weather may keep attendance down we are planning for the same number of spectators and vehicles as July's race," says Gil Rogers, NHDOT's Assistant Commissioner and Chairman of the Traffic Control Committee. "One major difference is a green flag time of 12:00 pm, two hours earlier than July's race. Everyone is asked to stay alert since the day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year and all roadways will be busy. If the weather is poor on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, then the race will take place on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 pm. If both days are postponed due to weather, then the race would be run on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 pm with the same traffic control."

Rogers says the Department will take steps to work with local businesses to get the word out to shoppers concerning alternative routes that can be taken to avoid race-related traffic patterns.

The traffic control measures planned for the November 23<sup>rd</sup> race involving NH Route 106, Interstate 393, and Interstate 93 include:

(1) On race day morning, NH Route 106 will be two lanes northbound and one lane southbound from I-393 to the intersection of Shaker Road. There will be three lanes northbound and one lane southbound from there to the NHIS south access road. As traffic builds up in the three northbound lanes, traffic control personnel will extend the three lanes southerly to a point near the NH Route 129 intersection.

(2) Also, on race day morning, the northbound off-ramp, Exit 15E of I-93, will be signed to allow two temporary lanes of traffic onto I-393. In order to reduce congestion on I-93 and promote safety, the northbound on-ramp at Interstate 93's Exit 14 from Loudon Road will be closed from 4:00 am to 11:00 am. The ramp traffic will be detoured to either Exit 1 of Interstate 393 via Fort Eddy Road or Exit 15 of I-93 via Bridge Street and North Main Street.

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*November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 NHIS Traffic Control Measures (continued)*

Exit 1 eastbound to Fort Eddy Road will also be closed from 5:00 am to 11:00 am. Ramp traffic will be detoured via Stickney Avenue off I-393 or Exit 2 of I-393 (East Side Drive).

(3) NH Route 106, between I-393 in Concord and NHIS, will be converted to a temporary three lane one-way southbound roadway between approximately 1:45 pm and 8:30 pm. For safety reasons, the intersections of the following roads with NH Route 106 will be closed during the one-way conversion: Hollow Route Road, Gues Meadow Road, Mudgett Hill Road, Clough Pond Road, Currier Road, Sheep Rock Road, South Village Road, Wales Bridge Road, Staniels Road, and Josiah Bartlett Road.

Motorists using Clough Hill Road, Beck Road, New Shaker Road, Soucook Lane, North Village Road, Goshen Drive, NH Route 129, East Cooper Street, Hemlock Hill Drive, Chichester Road, and Autumn Drive will be able to access NH Route 106, but only for southbound travel.

During the approximately six and three-quarter hour period NH Route 106 is limited to one-way traffic, safety vehicles will be stationed at four strategic locations to respond to emergency calls.

(4) NH Route 106 in Belmont will again be made one-way northbound between the Concord Street/NH Route 106 intersection and the NH 140/106 intersection. This section of roadway will be converted to a temporary two lane one-way northbound roadway between approximately 2:45 pm and 8:30 pm. Southbound Route 106 traffic will be rerouted onto North Main Street, to Concord Street, and then back onto Route 106. All other streets in Belmont will continue normal operations.

(5) At the intersection of NH Route 106 and Interstate 393, all ramps for northbound travel on Route 106 will be closed from approximately 1:45 pm to 8:30 pm.

(6) On Interstate 393, the Fort Eddy Road westbound on-ramp will be closed from approximately 2:15 pm to 8:30 pm.

(7) At the Interstate 393 and Interstate 93 interchange, the I-93 northbound off-ramp to I-393 west, Exit 15W; and the I-93 southbound ramp to I-393 east, Exit 15E; and I-393 east to I-93 southbound ramp will be closed from approximately 2:15 pm to 9:15 pm. Motorists attempting to use the I-393 west to I-93 southbound ramp will be diverted to Stickney Avenue from which they can access I-93 south at Exit 14.

(8) The southbound off-ramp at Exit 14 of I-93 will be closed from approximately 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Motorists will be directed to use Exit 15W to reach Exit 14 destinations.

(9) Because of the traditional extremely heavy northbound traffic in the afternoon and early evening hours on I-93 on the Friday after Thanksgiving, the “borrowed lane” used on a Sunday afternoon after a Winston Cup race will **NOT** be implemented for this race. Fortunately, southbound traffic volumes on I-93 during the same critical hours are manageable. At approximately 2:45 pm, southbound traffic will be merged into a single lane north of Exit 15 to ease congestion.

(10) Special measures on westbound I-393 to enhance southbound I-93 traffic will also be in use at Exit 15. The loop ramp for this movement will be signed to encourage two temporary lanes of traffic on the ramp for this race day. The two lanes will be merged on southbound I-93 prior to reaching Exit 14.

(11) At the Hooksett Toll Plaza, nine lanes for southbound traffic will be provided from 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Toll attendants will operate all nine lanes to maximize traffic flow. Additional signs will be erected to advise motorists of plaza lane use, and maintenance personnel will be on duty at the toll plaza to ensure that lanes are kept open.